

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                    1.     A method for configuring a target computer system, the method  
2     comprising  
3                    creating an image of a first plurality of software components;  
4                    storing the image onto the target computer system;  
5                    determining additional software components to be stored onto the  
6     target computer system;  
7                    storing the additional software components by using a predefined  
8     module.  
9  
10                  2.     The method of claim 1, wherein a module includes at least a  
11     portion of setup information provided by a manufacturer of a first software  
12     component associated with a first module.  
13  
14                  3.     The method of claim 1, wherein a module includes at least a  
15     portion of a compressed software component.  
16  
17                  4.     The method of claim 3, wherein a module includes at least a  
18     portion of a PAC file.  
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20                  5.     The method of claim 1, wherein the image includes a foundation  
21     image.  
22  
23                  6.     The method of claim 1, wherein the image includes a recovery  
24     image.  
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26                  7.     The method of claim 1, further comprising  
27                    storing a plurality of data files, wherein a data file includes system  
28     specific configuration information.

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30                   8.     The method of claim 7, wherein the data files are stored in a  
31 common directory.

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33                   9.     The method of claim 7, wherein a code field is used to indicate  
34 what images can be loaded onto a particular system.

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36                   10.    The method of claim 1, further comprising  
37                   creating an initialization file;  
38                   copying a recovery image to a temporary location;  
39                   restoring the recovery image to a first partition from a temporary  
40 location;  
41                   copying the recovery image from the first partition to a temporary  
42 location;  
43                   copying a foundation image to the first partition via a network;  
44                   restoring the foundation image to a second partition;  
45                   copying permanent modules to the first partition;  
46                   copying a data file to the first partition;  
47                   copying temporary modules to the first partition;  
48                   copying a module including at least a portion of a software component  
49 to the first partition;  
50                   executing one or more modules; and  
51                   deleting modules from the first partition.

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53                   11.    The method of claim 1, further comprising  
54 storing a process for recovering an initial installation.

55

56                   12. An apparatus for configuring a target computer system, the  
57 apparatus comprising  
58                   a machine-readable medium including  
59                   one or more instructions for creating an image of a first plurality of  
60 software components;  
61                   one or more instructions for storing the image onto the target computer  
62 system;  
63                   one or more instructions for determining additional software  
64 components to be stored onto the target computer system; and  
65                   one or more instructions for storing the additional software components  
66 by using a predefined module.

67  
68                   13. A machine-readable medium including  
69                   one or more instructions for creating an image of a first plurality of  
70 software components;  
71                   one or more instructions for storing the image onto the target computer  
72 system;  
73                   one or more instructions for determining additional software  
74 components to be stored onto the target computer system; and  
75                   one or more instructions for storing the additional software components  
76 by using a predefined module.

77  
78                   14. An apparatus for configuring a target computer system, the  
79 apparatus comprising  
80                   means for creating an image of a first plurality of software components;  
81                   means for storing the image onto the target computer system;  
82                   means for determining additional software components to be stored  
83 onto the target computer system; and  
84                   means for storing the additional software components by using a  
85 predefined module.

86                   15. A method for recovering software components, the method  
87 comprising  
88                   installing at least a portion of a foundation image;  
89                   selectively allowing a user to install a software component from a third-  
90 party installation medium; and  
91                   selectively allowing a user to install a software component from a  
92 secondary file.

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94                   16. The method of claim 15, wherein the secondary file includes a  
95 PAC file.